REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The preliminary amendment is being filed in an effort to present an application in proper U.S. format and to present claims in proper U.S. claim idiom for examination.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-32 do not introduce any new subject matter and are intended to cover additional claimable subject matter fully supported by the originally filed specification.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment made with this Office Action, to Deposit Account Number 500326.

An early action on the merits of the claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Ful Applications

Anthony Castiglione, Reg. No.: 56,051

Intellectual Property Counsel

Kinetic Concepts, Inc.

Legal Department - Intellectual Property

8023 Vantage Drive

San Antonio, Texas 78230

Telephone: 210.255.6788 Facsimile: 210.255.6969

E-mail: anthony.castiglione@kci1.com

I:\Patents\ROT.709\ROT.709.US\ROT.709.US Preliminary Amendment.doc/kr